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Am. issue  
TO THE  
SUPREAM AUTHORITY

THE  
Parliament

OF  
ENGLAND, &c.

*The Humble Petition of Tho. Violet Goldsmith.*

*Humbly Sheweth,*



Hit your Petitioner having presented in writing the ensuing Petition against several false Coyners, to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Mr. Recorder, and Court of Aldermen, Friday the 13. of January 1659. the first day that the Sessions began, which Petition his Lordship, Mr. Recorder, and some other Aldermen on the Bench read privately to themselves, your Petitioner expecting his Lordships and Mr. Recorders Answers, and the Courts directions in the businesse, how your Petitioner should proceed for the best advantage of the Commonwealth, and for the bringing the offenders to Iustice, your Petitioner having attended all Friday about this businesse, at the rising of the Court on Friday night, your Petitioner prayed the Lord Mayor, and Mr. Recorder, to appoint when your petitioner should know and have an Answer to his petition, and the Courts directions how he should prosecute this businesse; your petitioner being required by Mr. Thomas Chaloner, and Mr. Iosias Barnards, and others of the Councel of State, to assist in the behalf of the Common-wealth in this businesse, for the bringing to Iustice the false Coyners.

A Where

Whereupon the Lord Mayor, and Mr. Recorder ordered your Petitioner to attend the next day, (being Satterday January the 14.) the Court at seven a Clock in the morning, and then your petitioner should know the pleasure of the Court; your petitioner attended the Court all day but dinner time, till almost foure of the Clock; and then your petitioner seeing Mr. *Justice Bloomer* in the Court, he called unto him, and desired him that your petitioner might have Copies of all the Examinations and Depositions against the false Coyners of ourlandish money, and all other Witnesses touching that businesse; Mr *Justice Bloomer* replied, he had put them into the Court already, and I must ask the Court of Sessions for them.

Thereupon your Petitioner acquainted the Court, that he had made the President and Council of State acquainted, with what a nest of Vipers, false Coyners, he had found out, and that ten Witnesses had sworn, that *Richard Pight*, Clerk of the Coyning Irons in the Mint, had contrary to his Trust, and the duty of his place, countenanced, abetted and assisted, and bin privy to the counterfeiting of great quantities of *Euuden* dollars, Dutch shillings, Stivers, Spanish money, and other forreign Coines in the City of *London*, which discovery the Councel took for a great service.

That Mr. *Iosias Barners*, Mr. *Tho. Chaloner*, and several others of the Council of State, had required your Petitioner to assist in the behalf of the Commonwealth, and prosecute this businesse; and that when your petitioners petition was read at the Council of State about a week ago, to desire them to send to Mr. *Justice Bloomer*, for to deliver into the Councel of State, the true Copies of the Depositions sworn against *Richard Pight*, some of the Council of State bid me attend the Court of Sessions, and demand Copies; and Mr. *Iosias Barnaras* said, It was not fit I should be at any charge, but to desire the Copies, as immediately for the service for the Commonwealth, which your petitioner moved to the Court;

Court; but they ordered Mr. *Leigh* to deliver me true Copies attested, of all the Depositions and Examinations against the false Coyners, and *Richard Pight*, which are delivered into the Court by Mr. *Iustice Bloomer*, but the Court ordered, that your Petitioner should not have the Depositions and Examinations, if he did not pay the usual fees to Master-*Leigh*, whereupon your Petitioner gave Mr. *Leigh* satterday at night 14. *Jan.* the sum of twenty shillings, in accompt for drawing the copies, five indictments, and to give me on Munday morning *Jan.* 16. all the depositions, and examinations brought into the Court by Mr. *Iustice Bloomer* against the false coyners, that so your Petitioner might shew your Honours Mr. *Atorney General*, and the Council for the Commonwealth, what is proved upon Oath against *Richard Pight*, and these counterfeiters of money.

About foure of the clock the same day, there was several Indirements read against some of the counterfeiters of money, one against another, by consent of the counterfeiters, put in by consent of *Richard Pight*, *Ralph Hartford*, to defraud the State, by a faint and slack prosecution of the said *Richard Pight*, therefore your petitioner humbly prayed the Court, that he might have time to advise with the States Council at Law, touching the indiring all the offenders: And that in the mean time no prejudice should be done to the Commonwealth, by *Pights* prosecution against any of the offenders, which I have charged in my petition to have coyned forreign money, with *Pights* privity and consent.

Whereas the said *Pight* hath maliciously filled two Indirements against your petitioner, for Assault and Battery, thinking thereby to interrupt your petitioner from the vigorous prosecution of this Businesse; your petitioner humbly offered the Court to come presently to a trial with *Pight*, or when the Court pleased, for any thing could be objected



against your Petitioner, for what concerned his own particular.

But for the Commonwealths interest, I told the Court I could not proceed, till the Council see what was proved.

May it please your Honours, I have above fourty witnesses to subpena in against *Pight*, and the false Coyners, your petitioner expects the Court of Sessions will not tie your petitioner to impossibilities, when he hath not yet had any of the Examinations and Depositions from Mr. *Leigh*, taken by Justice *Bloomer*, touching *Pight*, and the rest of the confederates; and the Witnesses that have sworn against *Pight* are above ten several persons, that *Pight* was privy, consenting and abetting to the coining of false moneys, your petitioner must have these Examinations out of Mr. *Leighs* hand, before the Council for the Commonwealth can draw his Inditement.

Your Petitioners Humble Desire to the Lord Mayor and Master Recorder was, that he might have the Records aforesaid from Master *Leigh*, and afterwards time to acquaint your Honours, and the Council at Law for the State, of the whole matter of Fact, and what is sworn, and that in the mean time no prejudice might be done to the Commonwealth, by bringing any of the false Coyners to a Trial, till your Honours had seen what was proved against *Pight*, and given your directions how he should be proceeded against.

#### POSTSCRIPT,

May it please your Honours, Fran. Preston, Geo. Cheaty, Ral. Hartford, Godf. Cooley, Tob. Knowles, &c. as your Petitioner is credibly informed, are petitioning your Honours for their pardons, and they pray for an Act of Indemnity, for so much as they shall confesse, and then your Honours shall know the whole truth of this businesse. Your Petitioner humbly prays your Honours to see what they have already sworn before they be pardoned, and your Petitioner will attend you with the Copey of the Record, as soone as he can get it out of the Sessions. Your Petitioner according to his request, was tryed concerning his Assault and Battery, and by the Jury found not guilty, and the Court did leave your Petitioner to be free, to take his remedy at Law against Rich. *Pight* for dispersing of his scandalous Petitions in the Court against your Petitioner, and stopped all Indictments against the false coyners, as your Petitioner desired. Till a Lord chief Justice, and the Council at Law for the Commonwealth, was appointed by your Honours, and your Petitioner was ordered by the Court, to proceed against all false coyners according to their directions,

Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>. 1659.

Your Petitioner shall pray, &c)

To the Right Honourable the  
**L O R D M A Y O R**

Mr. Recorder, and the rest of the Justices for  
 the Peace for *London*, and *Middlesex*.

*The Humble Petition of Thomas Violet Goldsmith.*

*Sheweth,*



That your Petitioner having lately discovered, that *Francis Preston*, *George Cheaty*, *Ralph Hartford*, *Godfrey Cooley*, *John Gerrell*, *Tobias Knowles*, and several others, Coyners, Casters, and Stampers of counterfeit silver, dollars, Spanish Coynes, Dutch shillings, Stivers, and other foreign Princes Coynes; That they under colour of coyning and making of farthings of Copper and Brasse, have counterfeited by Mills and Engines, and by other tools, in and about *London*, Silver moneys as aforesaid, being contrary to the Lawes and Statutes of this Nation, and most pernicious and destructive to Trade, and mischievous to every individual person of this Commonwealth; these wicked practices causing many times many innocent persons, who have bin cozened by receiving the said counterfeit money for good money, to come into great danger of their lives, both in *England*, *Dunkirk* and *Ireland*.

And all these aforesaid persons, and their traiterous actions, have bin for a long time countenanc't, supported, cherished, and warranted by one *Richard Pight*: Clerk and Keeper of the Coyning Irons in the Mint, in the Tower of *London*, who contrary to the Trust and Duty of his place, hath confederated with all the aforesaid false Coyners, when he ought

to have apprehended the aforefaid persons, having alwayes Warrants Dormant, and Authority from the Council of State, and Lord Chief Iustice so to do; the said *Richard Pight*, being for this nine years intrusted in an especial manner from the State, to finde out these offences and offenders, whose villany and breach of Trust hath filled *England, Ireland*, and *Dunkirk*, with brasse money, to the dishonour of the Nation, to have brasse money cried about the streets, as it is at this day.

All these offences being proved against the said *Richard Pight*, and confessed upon Oath before Mr. Iustice *Bloomer*, by ten several persons, that he warranted and authorized the counterfeiting of these moneys as aforesaid, since this your Petitioners discovery, the said *Richard Pight* hath left no stone unturned, nor waies unattempted, to hinder your Petitioners prosecution of this businesse, as is most evident by his actions, and by the said *Richard Pights* scandalous Petition lately in print to the Parliament against your Petitioner, wherein he doth most falsely and maliciously blast your Petitioners real services done for the preservation of this Nation, which if his wicked designe had taken effect, would have bin to your Petitioners damage above sixteen thousand pounds; but many of this Council of State have ordered your Petitioner to indite the said *Pight*: And the Speaker of this Parliament took away lately his Warrant which he had formerly given him to apprehend false Coyners, and committed the said *Rich Pight* till he gave good Baile, and that night Iustice *Bloomer* made *Richard Pights Mitimus*, and sent him to Newgate for to answer the Law.

The sum of money which is certified to the Parliament, and late Lord Protectors, *Oliver* and *Richard*, that the State and Commonwealth owed your Petitioner, is eleven thousand pounds, due to your Petitioner, since *Decemb. 1652*. And this I have certified under the hands of the Honourable Sir *James Harrington*, Sir *Geo. Fleetwood*, Sir *Tho. Vyner*, Sir *John Barkstead*



*Barkstead*, the Lord *Bradshaw*, *Maurice Thomson*, Serjeant *Dendy*, Serjeant *Middleton*, *Isaac Dorislaus*, *Francis Bacon* Master of the Request, *Gabriel Beck*, Capt. *John Lymbury* Esquires, and many other Honourable Hands, the Originals I am readie to produce to your Honours, if required: These Honourable Gentlemen were appointed Commissioners by the late Protector *Oliver* and *Richard*, to certifie the true state of your Petitioners Case, as more fully will appear, by the Book herewith humbly presented to your good Lordship and the Bench.

May it please your Honours, Places of such trust in the Mint, as this of *Richard Pights* is, your Petitioner humbly say ought not to be put into the hands of needy, and necessitous, and unskillfull persons; this *Pight* being a Botcher, or Country Taylor, and one that can neither write nor read hardly to make his name, nor never brought up in the Mint businessse. May it please your Honours, for that your Petitioners prosecuting of the said *Pight*, hath not bin, nor shall be out of any bitternesse, or malice, but out of his duty to save himself from the penalty of the Law, which your Petitioner might be trappand into, if he should conceale *Richard Pights* traitorous actions. neither is this prosecution out of any expectation of profit, or succession of the said *Pights* place, which is really and truly belonging to a worthy and experienced Gentleman in that Office, one Mr. *Justice Swallow*, a man wel known to the Bench, and your Petitioner bears a better mind then to execute another mans Office, he would not except of it, should the State give it him.

And wheras the Council of state hath received severall Letters from *Dunkerk*, *Ireland*, wherein they heavily complayn of the great losses and abuses put on them, by counterfeit moneys made in *London*, the truth wherof all people that come from those parts do affirme, that there is in Prison now at this day, at *Dunkerk* one *Walker* and a woman that came for *Dunkerk*, that brought money from *London*, from these confederates,

derates, or some of them made at *London*, and transported and uttered the said false coynes in *Dunkirk*, by the hands of *Walker*, *Flewellyn*, and the foresaid woman, and the said *Flewellyn* was lodged in little Britain in *London*, at the Sugar-loafs by *Ralph Hartford*, or some of the confederates, who was lately taken in *Flanders*, and there boyled in Oyle, for uttering, and paying great sums of the said foreign coynes, which was made in *London* by the foresaid confederates, or some of them.

Your Petitioners humble prayer is, that your Petitioner be ordered by this Court to attend the Council of State, and to pray that order may be forthwith sent, for the bringing up the foresaid two Prisoners from *Dunkirk*, to discover this confederacy, and that so much of the Letters to the Council of State as concerns the discovery of these false coyners in *London*, with the quantities of the counterfeit money, and the severall sorts of Princes coynes, that the Council of States Letters speak hath bin uttered by these confederates in *Ireland* or *Dunkirk*, may be certified to this Court from the Council of State, if they be pleased to think it fit for the service of the Common-wealth, and discovery of these offences, and that the Council at Law for the Common-wealth may have all these papers and examinations touching these false coyners, or true copies delivered to them, that so the offenders may be brought to Justice, as they shall think most advantageous for the service, and benefit of the Common-wealth; and that your Petitioner may have the good likeing, and leave of this Court, to take his just remedy at Law against *Richard Pight*, for the scandalous Petition, and practises of the said *Richard Pight*, concerning your Petitioner.

(And he shall pray), &c.

Jan. 16.